

## STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

January 9, 2015

Connecticut State Department Of Education

[CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov](mailto:CTStudentAssessment@ct.gov)

860-713-6860

### Connecticut State Department of Education Smarter Balanced Portal

The [CSDE Smarter Balanced Assessment Portal](#) is now available. It will house all test administration resources for Test Coordinators, Test Administrators, Technology Coordinators, as well as for parents and families. The portal also displays Recent Announcements and allows users to register for E-mail Alerts when new resources and announcements are added to the portal. The 2014 Field Test Portal will not be functioning for the operational test so it should not be utilized anymore.

The [Secure Browsers](#) page provides information about supported operating systems and links for downloading the new secure browsers for the Spring 2015 test administration. Refer to the *Secure Browser Installation Manual* and *Technical Specifications Manual for Online Testing* located on the [Technology Coordinators](#) page for information about installing the secure browsers. In some cases, the new secure browser will override any previous versions, but in other cases the previous version needs to be uninstalled. It is recommended that the directions in the *Secure Browser Installation Manual* be followed so that the current secure browser is used during testing.



### CMT and CAPT Science Supplemental Testing

In March, the CMT and CAPT Science administrations will include supplemental test sessions for Grades 5, 8 and 10. This is in addition to the live test administrations. The purpose of the supplemental sessions is to pilot test new items that may be used in future assessments. Items will be piloted in both, paper-and-pencil and online formats. Districts were recently notified if their schools have been selected to participate. For selected schools, participation in the paper-and-pencil supplemental testing is required while participation in the online supplemental testing is optional. Questions can be directed to Jeff Greig ([jeff.greig@ct.gov](mailto:jeff.greig@ct.gov)).

### Measurement Incorporated Secure Testing (MIST) System Updates for CMT and CAPT Administration

#### **MIST Student Practice Site**

Specific students may be identified to be administered the CMT/CAPT Science on a computer using the MIST application. To allow these students a way to practice responding to test items on a computer, a [CMT/CAPT Science MIST Practice Site](#) is currently available.

#### **MIST Proctor Practice Site**

Account information for the Proctor Practice site is available on the [Measurement Incorporated Web Portal](#). The MIST Proctor Practice site allows school staff a way to practice with the MIST Proctor site prior to test administration. Each school has been assigned a unique username and password to access the Proctor Practice site. Fictitious student names will be available for proctors to use as practice. Proctors will have the same permissions as during the live test. The MIST Proctor Practice Site will become active on January 19.

#### **MIST Applet**

A new MIST applet is required and must be downloaded for the March 2015 Science test administration on the MIST application. The new applet will be available for download after January 19 at:

#### **Microsoft Windows:**

<https://misttest.com/Apps/html/Mistkiosk.exe>

#### **Macintosh:**

<https://misttest.com/Apps/html/Mistkiosk.dmg>

Clicking on the "old" MIST icon on computer desktops will result in a message that it is out of date. Users will need to download the new applet from one of the two URLs above. Technical questions about the MIST application should be directed to the MIST Technical Support Desk at 866-691-1148.

#### **MIST Usernames and Passwords for CMT/CAPT Science Administration**

Account information for the CMT and CAPT MIST Science tests will be available via the Measurement Incorporated Web Portal after January 23. This is the username and password to be used by each school to administer the CMT



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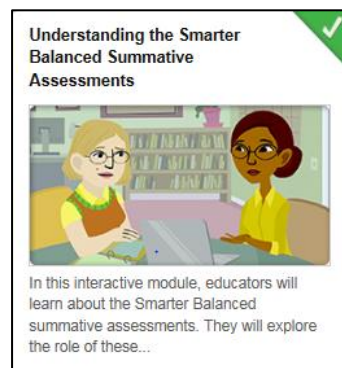
and CAPT Science tests to those students with a MIST accommodation. Each school will be assigned a unique username and password.

## Digital Library: Featured Assessment Literacy Module

### Understanding the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments

**Summary:** In this interactive module, educators will learn about the Smarter Balanced summative assessments. They will explore the role of these assessments in the Smarter Balanced Assessment System and explore key design features of its two parts: the Computer-Adaptive Test (CAT) and performance tasks. Educators will also learn the purposes of the summative assessments and consider use of assessment results.

Access the [Smarter Balanced Digital Library](#) to engage in this Assessment Literacy Module.



reminder

### District Test Coordinator Workshops Registration Reminder

District Test Coordinator (DTC) Workshops are scheduled for January 21 – 23, 2015, at the Institute of Technology and Business Development (ITBD) in New Britain. Training will be provided for the administration of the Smarter Balanced assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics, CMT/CAPT Science, CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Assessment, and the Connecticut Alternate Assessments (CTAA) for English language arts and mathematics. These trainings **are** intended for District Test Coordinators. Information will be provided to support the training of School Coordinators and Test Administrators. Registration is limited to two attendees per district. District Test Coordinators can register for a workshop using this [LINK](#).

reminder

### District Technology Upgrades to Support Transition to the New Standards Request For Proposal (RFP)

The [District Technology Upgrades to Support Transition to the New Standards](#) RFP was released by the Connecticut State Department of Education. The RFP seeks proposals for alterations, repairs, improvements, technology, equipment and capital start-up costs, including acquisition costs to expand the availability of high-quality school models and assist in the implementation of common core state standards and assessments. The submission date for proposals is February 13, 2015.

reminder

### Updating the Measurement Incorporated Web Portal

To ensure that information regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment, the CMT/CAPT Science Test (including Skills Checklist Science), and Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) is sent to the appropriate district staff member(s), please verify that the District Test Coordinator (DTC) and Second Contact information is accurate in the District Contact Verification (DCV) application of the [Measurement Incorporated \(MI\) Web Portal](#). The Grades 3 – 8 Smarter Balanced DTC is equivalent to the CMT DTC and the Smarter Balanced High School DTC is equivalent to the CAPT DTC. Please contact the Measurement Incorporated Connecticut Help Line at 1-866-762-1060 or [Connecticut@measinc.com](mailto:Connecticut@measinc.com) for assistance with the MI Web Portal. If you received this communication and are not the DTC, please forward this newsletter to the appropriate district staff member.

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